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THIRTY-SIXTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mercantile Library Company

OF

PHILADELPHIA.

JANUARY, 1859.

PHILADELPHIA:
G. T. STOCKDALE, PRINTER,
117 SOUTH SECOND STREET.
1859.



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OFFICERS.

1859.

President.

WILLIAM E. BOWEN.

Directors.

WILLIAM E. BOWEN,	JOHN H. ATWOOD,
WILLIAM L. SCHAFER,	CLAUDIUS B. LINN,
JOSEPH C. GRUBB,	GEORGE W. GIBBONS,
A. C. DURBORROW,	EDWARD S. CLARKE,
CHARLES H. DINGEE,	RICHARD WOOD,
ROBERT GRAFFEN,	FREDERICK FAIRTHORN,
W. J. P. WHITE.	

Treasurer.

CHARLES RHOADS.

Secretary.

CHARLES H. DINGEE.

Librarian.

JOHN EDMANDS.

ANNUAL MEETING.

PHILADELPHIA, Tuesday Evening, January 11, 1859.

THE Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Mercantile Library Company was held this evening in the Library Room, at 7½ o'clock. The number of members in attendance was about four hundred.

On motion of CHARLES H. DINGEE, Secretary of the Board of Directors, RICHARD PARKER was called to the chair, and HENRY LYLURN appointed Secretary.

The Annual Report of the Board of Directors was read by GEO. W. GIBBONS, and the Financial Report by CHARLES RHOADS, Treasurer.

On motion, *resolved*, That both reports be accepted and referred to the Board of Managers to be elected this evening, for publication.

A motion, instructing the Directors to obtain the back numbers of the Westminster Review, and to continue the work was, after much discussion, in which Messrs. ATWOOD, TYNDALE, SPARHAWK, and others participated, laid on the table.

On motion, *resolved*, That the Chairman appoint four tellers to conduct the election for Directors and Treasurer, to be held on the adjournment of this meeting.

D. M. ZIMMERMAN, JNO. C. ALLEN, H. K. KELLY, and W. C. COXE were appointed tellers.

Permission was granted to T. ESMONDE HARPER to withdraw from the list of nominees.

On motion, *resolved*, That this meeting adjourn until the evening of the 25th inst., to take into consideration the subjects mentioned on the Bulletin Board.

HENRY LYLURN, *Secretary*.

After counting the votes, the tellers announced the re-election of the gentlemen composing the Board of the past year.

PHILADELPHIA, January 25, 1859.

AN Adjourned Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Mercantile Library Company was held this evening, RICHARD PARKER acting as Chairman, and HENRY LYLURN as Secretary. Present about ninety members.

Resolved, That in view of the limited accommodations afforded by our present building, the Directors be requested to inquire into the expediency of selling the same, and moving the Library to some central location, capable of affording the requisite room. That they also ascertain the probable value of the present property, the cost of lots of ground in different localities, and the cost of erecting a new building suited to the wants of the Library, and report the same to a special meeting of the Company, to be called for that purpose. Adopted.

The resolution in reference to the Westminster Review was reconsidered by a vote of ayes 29, nays 24.

Mr. TYNDALE then offered the following:—

Resolved, That the Directors be instructed to obtain the back numbers of the Westminster Review, and to continue the work. Ayes 50, nays 31.

On motion of Mr. TYNDALE, it was *resolved*, that the thanks of the Stockholders are hereby tendered to the Board of Directors for the able manner in which they discharged their duties during the last year.

On motion of JNO. H. ATWOOD, Esq., it was *resolved*, that the thanks of this meeting are hereby given to the Chairman and Secretary for the attentive and efficient manner in which they performed their respective duties.

On motion adjourned.

RICHARD PARKER, *Chairman*.

HENRY LYLURN, *Secretary*.

THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT.

TO THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE
MERCANTILE LIBRARY CO. OF PHILADELPHIA.

GENTLEMEN: Your Board of Directors, in submitting the Annual Report, are gratified to state, that the usefulness of the Institution has not diminished. The steady increase of its members, which has characterized the preceding years, has marked the past.

The additions in volumes and pamphlet literature is in excess of former years, accompanied by an improvement in their character and value.

To meet the diversified taste of our numerous readers, the selection of books has embraced a wide range, including every department of standard and current literature.

The only works excluded from the Library are those of a controversial nature, in religion or politics, and publications believed to be of an immoral or infidel character.

The Board believe that not only the long-estab-

lished rules of the Institution, but also a regard for its correct moral tone, and the wishes of a large majority of its stockholders, require them to refuse works of the classes indicated, admission into the Library.

READING-ROOM.

One of the most gratifying evidences of the usefulness of the Institution, is the increased attendance at the Reading-Room.

To render this room attractive, particularly to young men, has always been a prominent aim of the Association.

A list of the magazines and newspapers that are to be found at present upon the tables of the Reading-Room is appended.

LIST OF PAPERS AND PERIODICALS.

Periodicals subscribed for, and to be found on the tables in the Reading-Room.

North American Review.	Chambers's Journal.
North British "	Art Journal.
Edinburgh. "	Journal of Franklin Institute.
Quarterly "	Home Journal.
National "	Illustrated London News.
De Bow's "	Punch.
Am. Homœopathic "	Athenæum.
American Journal of Education.	Littell's Living Age.
American Journal of Science.	Dwight's Journal of Music.
" Agriculturist.	Harper's Weekly.
Horticulturist.	Scientific American.

Publisher's Circular, London.	Dublin Univ. Magazine.
Publisher's Circular, American.	Home " "
Blackwood's Magazine.	Harper's " "
Historical " "	Lady's Book.
Frazier's " "	Knickerbocker.
Tait's " "	Household Words.
Merchants' " "	Atlantic Monthly.
Mining " "	Crayon.
Bankers' " "	Titan.
Russell's " "	Notes and Queries.
Gentlemen's " "	Leisure Hour.
Young Men's " "	Sunday at Home.

Newspapers subscribed for, and to be found upon the tables.

Boston Traveller.	North American and U. S. Gaz.
New York Journ. of Commerce.	Pennsylvania Inquirer.
" Evening Post.	Press.
" Herald.	Pennsylvanian.
" Times.	Public Ledger.
" Tribune.	Philadelphia Evening Journal.
Baltimore American.	" " Bulletin.
Washington Union.	" National Argus.
National Intelligencer.	" Commercial List.
Charleston Mercury.	Germantown Telegraph.
New Orleans Picayune.	Frankford Herald.
Nashville Union.	U. S. Railroad and Mining Reg.
Louisville Journal.	Examiner, London.
Cincinnati Gazette.	Spectator, " "
Missouri Democrat.	Evening Mail.
-Pioneer and Democrat.	The Jeffersonian.
Chicago Press and Tribune.	Home and Foreign Record.
Cleveland Plaindealer.	Journ. of Am. Temp. Union.
Kansas Ledger.	

FOREIGN BOOK DEPARTMENT.

An arrangement has been entered into with H. Stevens, Esq., of London, for the purchase of many

of the best class of standard English works, not republished in this country.

Mr. Stevens is the literary agent of the Library of the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, as well as other prominent Libraries. His experience in the selection and knowledge of books and book publishers, give him many advantages in this respect.

He has been requested to select such standard English works, to the amount of five hundred dollars, as, upon comparison with the catalogue furnished him we are most deficient in, and forward as early as possible; also, of such new works as are not likely to be republished in this country, to make monthly shipments, to the value of one hundred dollars, which will be an outlay for the foreign book purchases, during the ensuing twelve months, of seventeen hundred dollars, \$1700. This is a new feature added this year to the Book Department, and, if continued, will certainly tend largely to the improvement and gratification of the readers, and add to the permanent value of the Library.

LIBRARIANS.

Your Board are fully convinced of the benefit derived by the Association, in having the post of Librarian occupied by a gentleman, who, like the

present one, Mr. J. Edmands, is fitted by education and experience to assist in the selection of books, and whose judgment enables him to offer suggestions that may advance the interest, and afford pleasure and instruction to its numerous readers.

The Assistant Librarian, Mr. D'Ossone, continues to perform his duties with that faithful attention to the wishes of the members which has marked his previous course.

TREASURY.

The friends of the Institution cannot fail to be gratified by the state of the Treasury, as exhibited in the annexed report of the Treasurer. The credit of the Association stands high. No oppressive debt circumscribes its mission of usefulness; its funds, during the ensuing year, promise to be ample to purchase moderately of all new publications, of a really desirable character, as also many of the standard old works, not now embraced in its catalogue.

There are at present outstanding 295 shares building scrip certificates, the par value of which is \$2950, a reduction since last report of \$240.

The only outlay, other than ordinary expenses, the past year, has been in painting the front of

the building and roof, at a cost of \$344, the addition of new furnaces, at a cost of \$180, the old ones being defective, not answering the wants of the occupants of the offices.

By the report of the Treasurer, the receipts from all sources amount to $\$7665\frac{88}{100}$; the expenditures during the same time, $\$6924\frac{31}{100}$, leaving a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of $\$1201\frac{25}{100}$, which is absorbed, to wit:—

Subject to sight drafts, foreign book account	\$800
Sundry book bills to January 1, 1859, not yet examined and passed for payment . . .	401 25

MEMBERS.

During the year there has been an accession of 67 shareholders, 40 of whom by the purchase of new and forfeited shares, 3 by the conversion of life certificates, 24 by the conversion of building scrip.

Also of new subscribers 70, making a total of 137 members, less ten, whose shares were forfeited for non-payment of dues, and 7 subscribers whose subscriptions were not renewed; an increase over the preceding year of 120.

LIBRARY.

The number of volumes added during the past year, is 1355, including by purchase, 1201; by

donation, 84; by periodicals bound, 70, making the number now in the Library, excluding 250 of duplicate and imperfect ones, 16,000, classified as follows:—

Science, Arts, and Law	2750
Belles Lettres, including Periodicals	3800
Prose Fiction	1900
History	2000
Biography	1500
Miscellaneous	1200
Voyages and Travels	1900
Religion	950
	<hr/>
	16,000

Added during this year, as classified—

Science, Arts, and Law	270
Prose Fiction	165
Voyages and Travels	85
Religion	72
Belles Lettres, including Periodicals	335
History	220
Biography	115
Miscellaneous	93
	<hr/>
	1355

The number of volumes taken out for perusal by the members during the year 1857, was 41,000, this year, 1858, 46,300, an increase of 5300, being 13 per cent. over the former year, which must be highly gratifying, as it shows a further appreciation of the benefits of the Association.

The number of members who have availed

themselves of their privileges during the year, is 1675, or 88 per cent. of the whole number.

The following exhibits the number of volumes taken out from each of the classes named, in 1857, and the percentage of those taken to the number now in each class.

Science, &c.	1030	Percentage	36
Belles Lettres, &c. . . .	3700	"	97
Prose Fiction	24,700	"	1300
History	1900	"	95
Voyages and Travels . . .	3780	"	200
Biography	2860	"	190
Religion	910	"	95
Miscellaneous	2120	"	175
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41,000			

DONATIONS.

Your Board, in behalf of the members, return thanks to the following gentlemen and Institutions, for their donations this year of the appended list of books.

- Hon. H. M. PHILLIPS.—Reports of Surveys and Explorations for Pacific R. R., vols. 5, 6, 7, and 8. 4 vols.
- " Report of the Secretary of the Treasury on Commerce and Navigation, 1857. 1 vol.
- " Message of the President to Congress, with accompanying Documents. 3 vols.
- " Report on the Commercial Relations of the U. S. with Foreign Nations. Vol. 2. 1 vol.
- " Report of the Commissioner of Patents for 1857. Arts and Manufactures. 3 vols.

Hon. H. M. PHILLIPS.—Report of Smithsonian Institution for 1857. 1 vol.

“ U. S. Naval Astronomical Expedition to Southern Hemisphere. 1 vol.

Hon. T. B. FLORENCE.—Maps and Charts of the U. S. Coast Survey. 1 vol.

Hon. E. JOY MORRIS.—Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution, 1857. 1 vol.

Hon. A. V. BROWN.—Speeches and other writings. By A. V. B. 1 vol.

Lt. Col. J. D. GRAHAM, U. S. A.—Report on the Commerce and Improvements of the Lake Harbors of the West, with maps and charts. 2 vols.

S. M. SMUCKER, Esq., the author.—Life of E. K. Kane, and other distinguished American Explorers. 1 vol.

“ Life of Nicholas 1st, of Russia. 1 vol.

J. MILTON MAYS, Esq.—Thomas's History of Printing in America. 2 vols.

Dr. WM. DARLINGTON, the author.—History of Westchester, Pa. 1 vol.

JAS. S. RITCHIE, Esq.—Collections of the Historical Society of Wisconsin. Vol. 2. 1 vol.

“ Ritchie's Wisconsin, and its Resources. 1 vol.

Rev. WM. BARRY, Chicago.—Third Annual Report of the Public Schools of Chicago. 1 vol.

EDWARD GASKILL, Esq.—Saunderson's Biography of the Signers to the Declaration of Independence. 1 vol.

H. STEVENS, Esq., F. S. A.—Catalogue of my English Library. 1 vol.

FROM A FRIEND.—Litton's Church of Christ in its Idea, Attribute, and Ministry. 1 vol.

“ McIlvaine's Evidences of Christianity. 2 vols.

“ Leigh Richmond's Memoir and Domestic Portraiture. 4 vols.

“ Goode's Better Covenant. 2 vols.

“ Memoirs of C. Simeon, E. Bickersteth, J. J.

Westbrecht, H. Venn, J. Pratt, W. M. Jackson, J. Chisholm, A. V. Griswold, J. Milner, H. W. Fox, G. T. Bedell, Thos. Scott, H. Martyn. 14 vols.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.—Schoolcraft's History of the Indian Tribes.

“ Gillis' U. S. Astronomical Expedition. Vols. 1, 2, 3, 6. 4 vols.

“ Perry's U. S. Expedition to Japan, 1, 2, 3. 3 vols.

“ Pacific Railroad Explorations. 16 vols.

STATE OF OHIO.—Annual Report of the Commissioner of Statistics, 1857. 1 vol.

STATE OF MARYLAND.—Sixth Agricultural Report. 1 vol.

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.—Colonial Records. Vols. 4 to 11. 8 vols.

“ Pennsylvania Archives. Vols. 6 to 12. 7 vols.

“ Roger's Geological Report. Vol. 1, and maps. 1 vol.

PEABODY INSTITUTE.—Catalogue of the Library. 1 vol.

DUDLEY OBSERVATORY.—Statement of the Trustees. 1 vol.

CARPENTER'S CO. OF PHILADELPHIA.—Reminiscences of Carpenter's Hall. 1 vol.

REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.—Census of the State of New York, 1855. 1 vol.

“ Reports of the Regents of the University. 8 vols.

“ Report on Cabinet of Natural History. 1 vol.

“ Documents relative to the Colonial History of the State of N. Y. 9 vols.

“ Report on State Library, with Catalogue. 3 vols.

The COPE FUND now numbers 270 volumes, of which were added during the past year thirty, labelled as such.

The BECK FUND now numbers 83 volumes, of which were added the past year five, labelled as such.

SUGGESTIONS.

Your Board would, at this point, submit the following: That, while the gratitude of the members to the founders of this Association, and the generous response of the merchants when called upon to contribute towards the erection of the spacious building we now occupy, should ever be held in grateful remembrance: Why is it, that in late years we find upon the perusal of the reports of the Library Companies in our sister cities, that the donations and bequests to their Institutions largely exceed those of our own city, which stands prominent for the wise and munificent bequests and donations to found and sustain numbers of Institutions that benefit morally, mentally, and physically, the recipients of their advantages?

This Institution proposes to perpetuate these views, and set forth in their Annual Report the names of those whose spirit of philanthropy prompted them to aid us in supplying this stream of useful and beneficial knowledge.

As it remains within ourselves whether we are

to steadily advance in importance and influence, each member should feel that he has a personal interest in the growth and progress of the Association, and whatever of influence he can exert, should be cheerfully put forth, to forward the noble purpose of its founders, and to keep pace with the demands of the age.

In furtherance thereof, your Board would suggest that a concerted effort be made without delay on the part of the stockholders, by appointing suitable persons to obtain, by donation and subscription, a fund of ten thousand dollars, to be applied to the purchase of such standard works as the Institution is deficient in.

This will promote the value and usefulness of the Association more rapidly than can be done by the regular method.

The stockholders must realize that without an effort of this character, successfully carried out, it is impossible to increase the number of volumes to meet their desires and expectations, as the entire receipts from members, including fines, sales of stock, &c., are exhausted by the ordinary expenses in conducting the Association, and were it not for the rental of the building, there could be but few books added, except by donations, or from a fund obtained yearly by gratuitous subscription, a very uncertain dependence.

CONCLUSION.

In closing the labors of the past year, your Board now resign the direction of its affairs to the stockholders, having endeavored to discharge their duties in a faithful manner, entirely with reference to promoting the interests and usefulness of our cherished Association, with full assurance of the added strength for benefiting its members.

On behalf of the Board,

W. E. BOWEN, *President.*

C. H. DINGEE, *Secretary.*

January 11, 1859.

CHARLES RHOADS, Treasurer, in account with the "Mercantile Library Company."

Dr. LIBRARY FUND. Cr.

1858.		1858.	
Jan'y 1.	To balance of cash to credit of this account from last year	Dec. 31.	By Cash paid for salaries and wages
"	" cash received from stockholders' taxes for 1858	"	" " books
"	" " rents of offices	"	" repairs (including \$534 for two new heaters, painting front, and repairing roof)
"	" " sales of stock (chiefly forfeited shares)	"	" periodicals and newspapers
"	" " subscribers	"	" binding books
"	" " transfer fees	"	" gas
"	" " sales of catalogues	"	" fuel
"	" " fines collected	"	" interest on mortgage of \$9,000 on building
"	" " sale of newspapers	"	" taxes and water rent
"	" cash transferred from credit of Cope Fund and expended in the purchase of books	"	" miscellaneous
		"	" printing and advertising
		"	" insurance
			Total expenses
			Balance of cash on hand
			\$8,125 56

Dr. COPE FUND. Cr.

1858.		1858.	
March.	To six months' interest on bond of Delaware and Chesapeake Canal Co. to January 1	Dec. 31.	By amount transferred from this account to the credit of Library Fund and expended in the purchase of books as directed by Testator
July.	" " " to July 1		\$60 00
			\$60 00

Examined and compared with vouchers, and found correct.

ROBERT GRAFFEN, } Auditing Committee.
CLAUDIUS B. LINN, }
PHILADELPHIA, December 31, 1858.

CHARLES RHOADS,
Treasurer.
PHILADELPHIA, January 1, 1859.